

Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 11:11 AM
To: Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: Capx2020 comments/EIS

-----Original Message-----

From: ruthfood@charter.net [mailto:ruthfood@charter.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 23, 2009 4:51 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: Capx2020 comments/EIS

I-197-001

Stephanie,
Dairyland Power and Xcel Energy must first prove there is a need for new high voltage lines to meet LOCAL need.
Below are articles showing how the energy company is not being truthful with the rate-payer.
Xcel just announced a new wind option where rate payers can pay MORE for wind. The problem? energy experts tell us there is no way to deliver just "WIND" generated power to a customer (unless you have your own windmill). The electrons all giggle together regardless of the source. Read further to see how Xcel over charged Colorado rate payers for the same program and faced fines.

I-197-002

Bottom line, the utilities motives MUST be analyzed in the process. If the power is to be sent to Chicago and points east in order to profit the utilities, MN and WI tax payers SHOULD NOT pay for this project. Also, CapX will not commit to ANY amount of wind on THEIR lines for the La Crosse Project (Source: MN Public Utilities Commission)
Thank you for including this information in your decision making process.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/stories/2009/07/20/daily9.html>

Monday, July 20, 2009, 1:52pm CDT

Xcel Energy adds wind power option

The Business Journal of Milwaukee

Xcel Energy in Eau Claire said Monday that it has launched a Windsource program that allows Xcel customers to elect to have all or more of their residential or commercial energy generated by renewable resources.

The energy provided for Windsource in Wisconsin during 2009 will be generated from wind farms in Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota. Windsource has been ranked as the largest voluntary green power program in the United States for the past six years, and has more than 70,000 residential and 1,000 business customers participating in Minnesota, Colorado and New Mexico.

Since the launch of the Wisconsin program last month, about 190 residential and 10 business customers, such as Northland College in

1

I-197-001

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at:
<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-197-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response I-197-001.

Ashland, have signed up to receive some or all of their energy through Windsource, Xcel officials said.

According to Xcel Energy management, Xcel is the top renewable energy provider in Wisconsin and in 2008 about 18 percent of the company's electric generation in the upper Midwest was produced from renewable resources and 43 percent from carbon-free resources.

Windsource costs \$1.15 per 100-kilowatt-hour block above current rates for electricity, with the average residential customer signing up for Windsource seeing an increase of \$12 to their monthly bill. Business and residential customers must agree to be on the program for a one-year term.

"This voluntary rate option gives each and every electric customer throughout our Wisconsin service territory a choice to buy renewable energy and promote the development of wind power," said Steve Mudd, Windsource product manager. "It is a great option for businesses that want to demonstrate their environmental leadership or even obtain LEED certification points."

Comments

Bill Bo <<http://networking.bizjournals.com/Bill2391>> July 21, 2009
9:16AM EST

Did you know that not only is their NO WIND on CAPX2020 AT ALL except for a small amount on the Brookings line (Fargo/Brookings/Minneapolis-La Crosse = the 3 lines), but there is NO REQUIREMENTS on the Twin Cities line to La Crosse at all?
And when 'they' said the "allegedly windy" CAPX had no plan of going EAST past La Crosse - why now is American Transmission Company going to build the La Crosse to Madison Line? Tourism, Hwy 60, and scenic byways? Ha-hysterical! Getting it yet? Best of all - can you tell when the lights go on if its wind, coal or nuclear you are getting? HERE IS THE NEXT PHASE to Madtown:
<http://www.tradingmarkets.com/.site/news/Stock%20News/2409577/> and also see <http://nocapx2020.info/?p=593>

"In politics, an organized minority is a political majority." Jesse Jackson

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<<http://networking.bizjournals.com/community/app/templates/tptemail.aspx?tpt=reportcomment&title=Xcel%20Energy%20adds%20wind%20power%20option&date=July%2021,%202009&author=Bill%20Bo&link=http://milwaukee.bizjournals.com/milwaukee/stories/2009/07/20/daily9.html&mid=7B2BB7B602-5D61-4042-9D60-09698440B30F%7D>>

Bill Bo <<http://networking.bizjournals.com/Bill2391>> July 21, 2009
9:13AM EST

Less impact from the PUBLIC RELATIONS machine ~ Denver "JANUARY 2009 - WIND PROBE - Xcel eyes deal when ACCUSED of selling more wind power than it generated. Xcel's voluntary wind- energy program will use \$2.6 million in shareholder money for a proposed SETTLEMENT following a STATE INVESTIGATION into the utility's voluntary wind- energy program.Xcel will REFUND \$1.6 million this year to "Windsource" customers and spend another \$1 million to purchase renewable-energy credits that will ensure customers receive the alternative power for which they pay a premium

price. The settlement is subject to approval by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission. An investigation last year by PUC staff found that Xcel was selling more power than it generated from Windsource, a program in which customers voluntarily pay a surcharge to support development of renewable energy." http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_11410889

"The two greatest obstacles to democracy in the United States are, first, the widespread delusion among the poor that we have a democracy, and second, the chronic terror among the rich, lest we get it." [1941] Edward Dowling

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Bill Bo <<http://networking.bizjournals.com/Bill12391>> July 21, 2009
9:11AM EST

IF \$12 a month gave you part "OWNERSHIP" in the entire "smart grid" (which incidentally, these lines may not be the that new technology) and a "claim stake" to local/regional clean energy - so one day your kids would in fact own it...would you pay it then? I would instantly! But that's the very last thing on earth the utilities want. Question: Could these dollars from this "greenish wind" program be going to ADVERTISING & PR expenses "selling us" on what they want us thinking they are doing with wind in the first place? Is Doyle involved? Oh - and that's just CAPX - there is ANOTHER one coming to WI - GREEN POWER EXPRESS! SEE <http://legalelectric.org/weblog/2900/>

"Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build a bridge even where there is no river" Nikita Krushchev

http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_11410889#comments

Xcel eyes deal in wind probe

The utility proposes a \$2.6 million settlement after it was accused of selling more wind power than it generated.

*By Steve Raabe *
/The Denver Post/
<<mailto:sraabe@denverpost.com?subject=The%20Denver%20Post:%20Xcel%20eyes%20deal%20in%20wind%20probe>>

Posted: 01/09/2009 12:30:00 AM MST

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 <http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_11298121>
 * Dec 23:
 * Xcel overbilled for wind plan
 <http://www.denverpost.com/business/ci_11291714>
 *

Xcel Energy will use \$2.6 million in shareholder money for a proposed settlement following a state investigation into the utility's voluntary wind- energy program.

Under the pending agreement, Xcel will refund \$1.6 million this year to Windsource customers and spend another \$1 million to purchase renewable-energy credits that will ensure customers receive the alternative power for which they pay a premium price.

The settlement is subject to approval by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission.

An investigation last year by PUC staff found that Xcel was selling more power than it generated from Windsource, a program in which customers voluntarily pay a surcharge to support development of renewable energy.

The settlement enables Xcel to use its entire portfolio of renewable energy to sell to Windsource customers, instead of just the two relatively small wind farms in northern Colorado that originally were designated for Windsource.

As a result, the program will be able to grow beyond its current sold-out capacity of 47,000 customers.

"The benefit is that it allows more customers to participate and it allows more development of renewable energy," said John Nielsen, energy-program director of Western Resource Advocates, a Boulder-based research group that helped draft the settlement.

For an average household that buys all its power from Windsource, Xcel's \$1.6 million refund would lower the extra cost from about \$35 a month to \$23, on top of normal power rates.

"This removes a great deal of uncertainty about the viability of Colorado consumers' access to renewables," said Arthur O'Donnell of green-power certification firm Green-e Energy.

The refund will be paid through 2009. Starting in 2010, Windsource rates will be based on the cost to build and acquire new renewable energy, which could result in higher Windsource premiums, Nielsen said.

/Steve Raabe: 303-954-1948 or sraabe@denverpost.com
 <<mailto:sraabe@denverpost.com>>/

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